

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 8, replace the paragraph beginning on line 27 (as amended February 3, 2005) with the following amended paragraph:

The positive working thermal imaging assembly of the present invention has many advantages as compared to the conventional printing plates made from other compositions. One of the advantages of the present invention is that preheating of the binding polymer system so to image prior to development is not required. Another advantage of this invention is that pre-exposure to ultraviolet radiation prior to infrared image is not needed. Still another advantage of this invention is that low concentration of infrared sensitive dye is used since the treatment of the first layer interacts with and protects and renders the resin of the first layer less soluble, allowing development thereof in high pH developers, about 14, of the kind used for conventional positive plates (PD2 IBF developer), after exposure. An additional advantage is that the positive working thermal imaging assembly containing the Thermally Imageable Element (TIE) of the present invention may be processed in different radiating devices, at wavelengths such as from 830 ~~[[810]]~~ nm to 1064 nm. Still another advantage is that the coating compositions of the present invention do not emit particles or vapors (ablation), avoiding the formation of precipitates on the infrared-emitting devices and the evolution of harmful vapors to the environment during exposure.

Page 9, after the last paragraph, insert the following new paragraph:

The second polymeric material of the first intermediate layer and the third or top layer can be polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinylmethyl ether or polyvinylethyl ether.